

November 2008 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

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Overview

The month of November 2008 was characterized by near normal temperatures (Table 1). Below normal temperatures for much of the month were offset by near-record to record high temperatures in the 70s from the 3rd to the 6th (Figs. 1-3). In general, southern parts of Southwestern Lower Michigan were colder than normal compared to northern parts of Southwestern Lower Michigan (Fig. 4).

Precipitation was slightly below normal for the month (Table 1). Precipitation occurred more frequently during the first half of the month (Figs. 5-7). In general, southern parts of Southwestern Lower Michigan were drier than normal compared to northern parts (Fig. 8). In spite of below normal precipitation across the area, snowfall was above normal, particularly near the lakeshore (Fig. 9).

November 2008 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

TABLE 1. Reported temperature, precipitation and snowfall amounts for November 2008 at selected climate stations in Southwest Lower Michigan.

| Location | | Temperature (degrees F) | Precipitation (inches) | Snowfall (inches) |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Grand Rapids | <i>Reported</i> | 38.9° | 2.07 | 10.0 |
| | <i>Normal</i> | 38.4° | 3.35 | 7.7 |
| | <i>Departure</i> | +0.5° | -1.28 | +2.3 |
| Lansing | <i>Reported</i> | 37.6° | 1.69 | 7.5 |
| | <i>Normal</i> | 38.0° | 2.66 | 5.1 |
| | <i>Departure</i> | -0.4° | -0.97 | +2.4 |
| Muskegon | <i>Reported</i> | 39.4° | 2.94 | 14.8 |
| | <i>Normal</i> | 38.7° | 3.23 | 8.7 |
| | <i>Departure</i> | +0.7° | -0.29 | +6.1 |

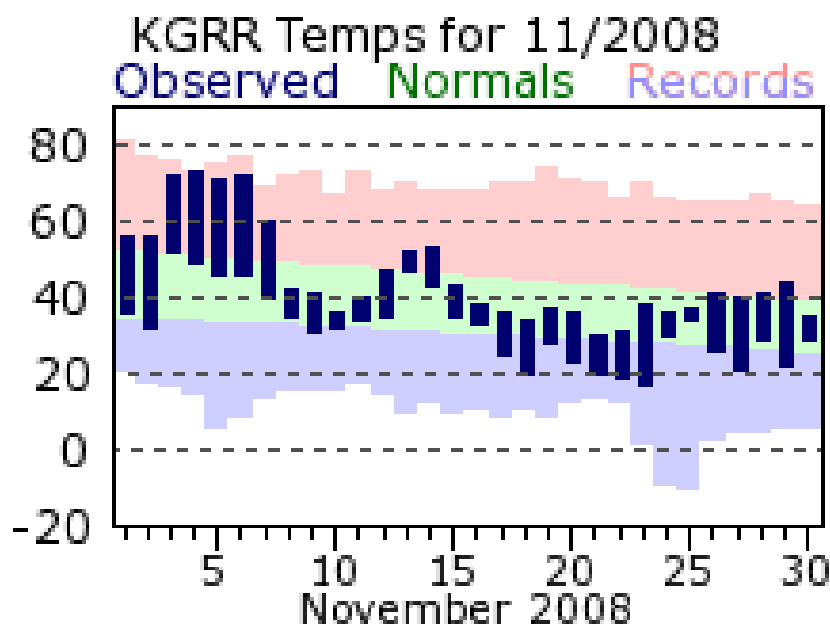


FIG. 1. Observed temperatures at the Grand Rapids International Airport. Dark blue bars are the temperature range for each day. The green strip indicates the normal range of temperatures. Record high and low temperatures are indicated at the top of the pink area and the bottom of the blue area, respectively.

November 2008 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

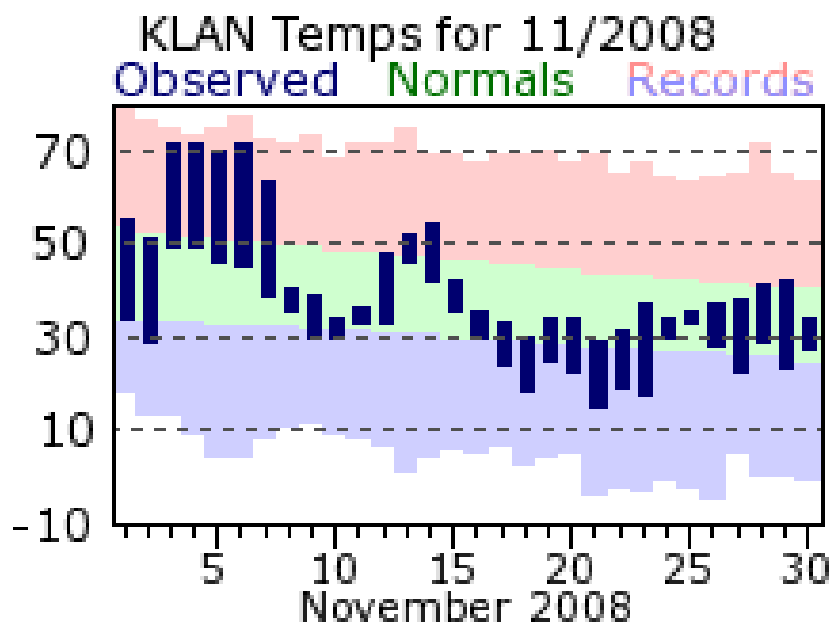


FIG. 2. As in Fig. 1 except for the Lansing airport.

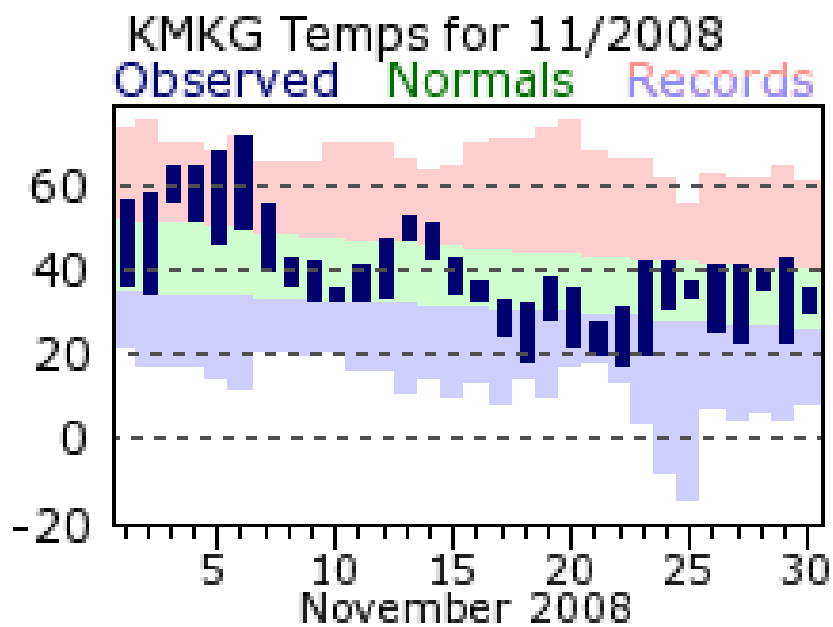


FIG. 3. As in Fig. 1 except for the Muskegon airport.

November 2008 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

Average Temperature Departure from Mean in Degrees F
November 1, 2008 to November 30, 2008

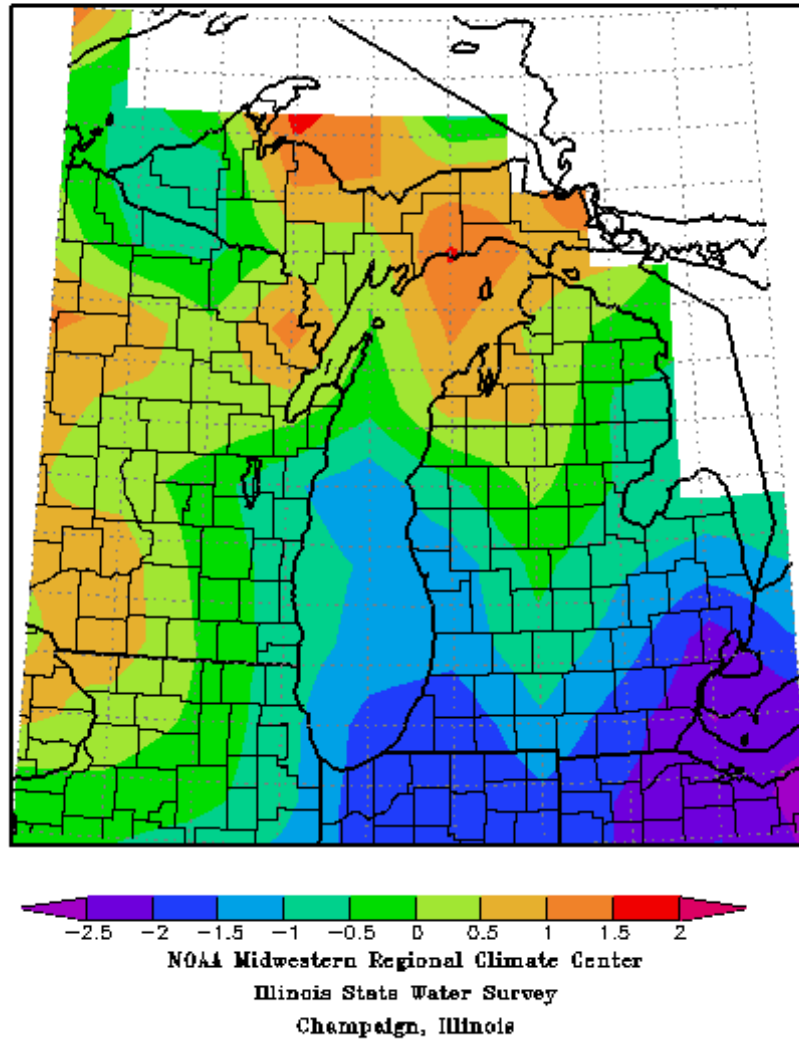


FIG. 4. Average temperature departure (in degrees F) for November of 2008.

November 2008 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

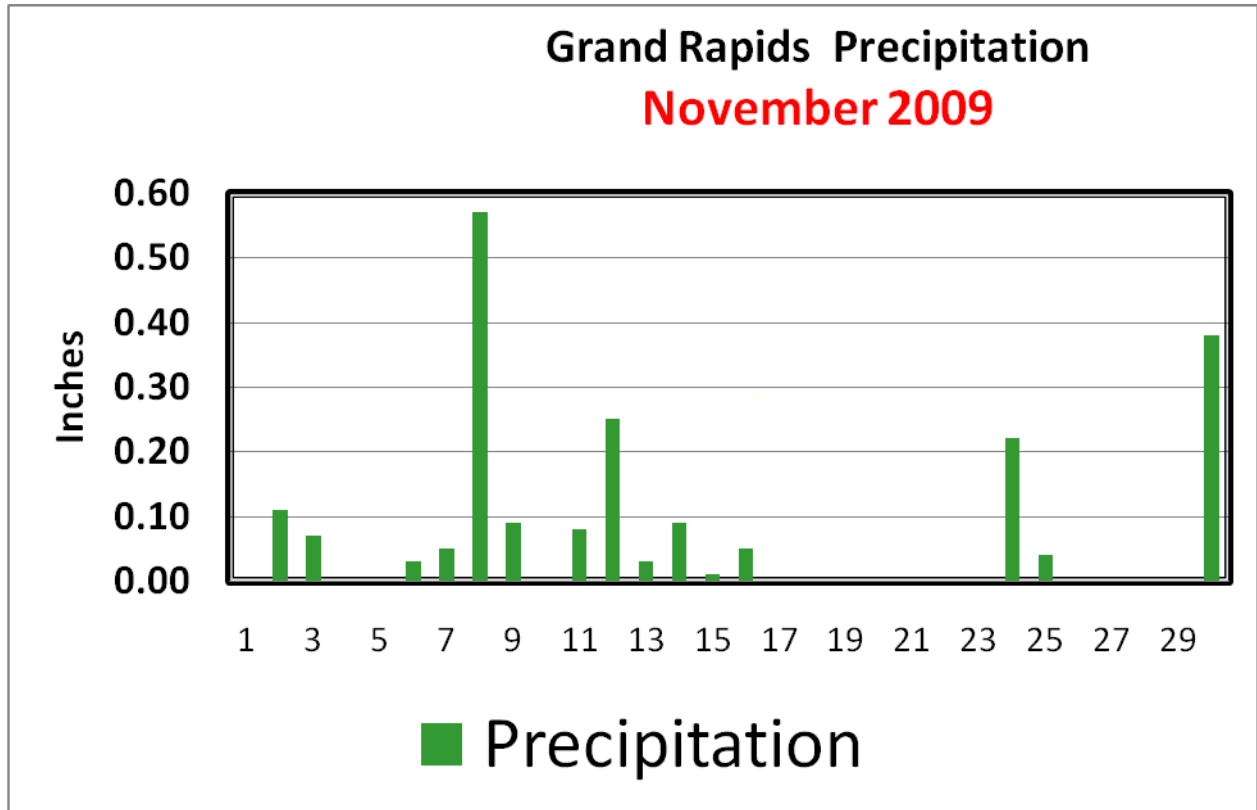


FIG. 5. Daily precipitation for November of 2008 at the Grand Rapids International Airport.

November 2008 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

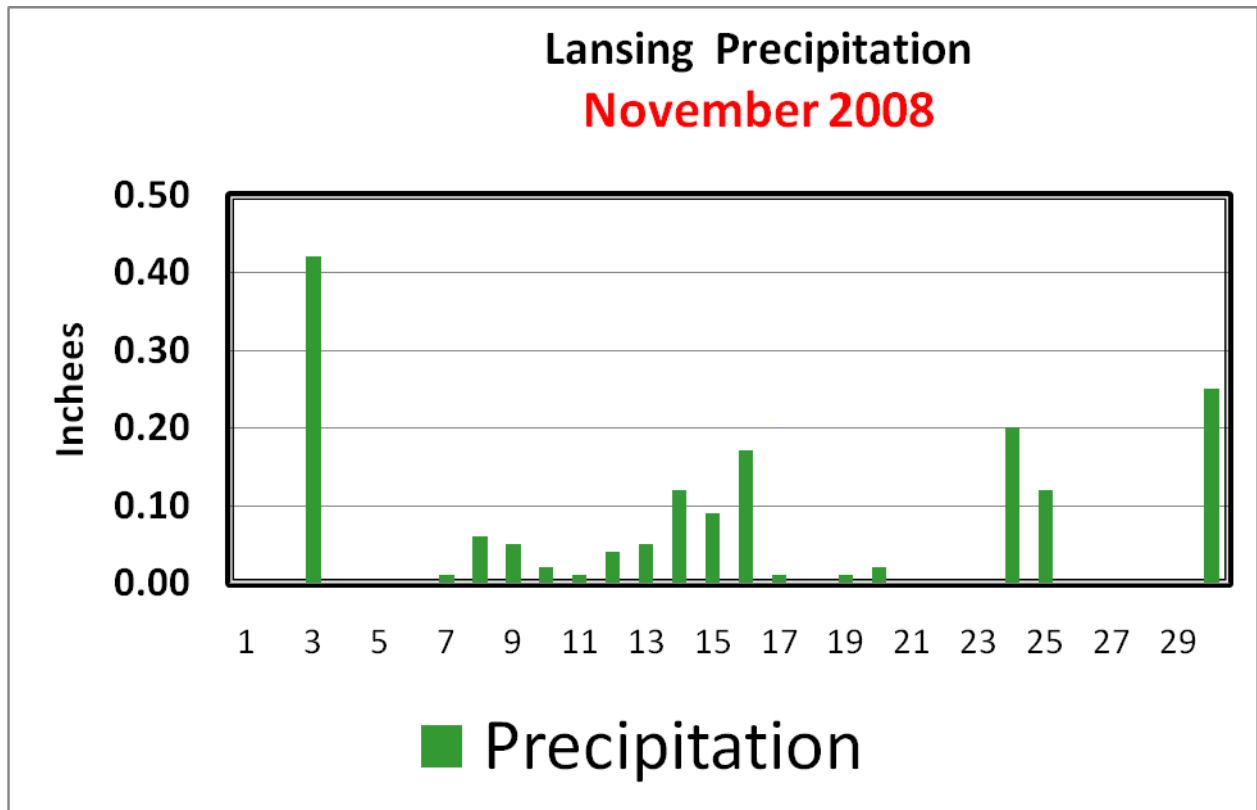


FIG. 6. As in Fig. 5 except for the Lansing Capital City Airport.

November 2008 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

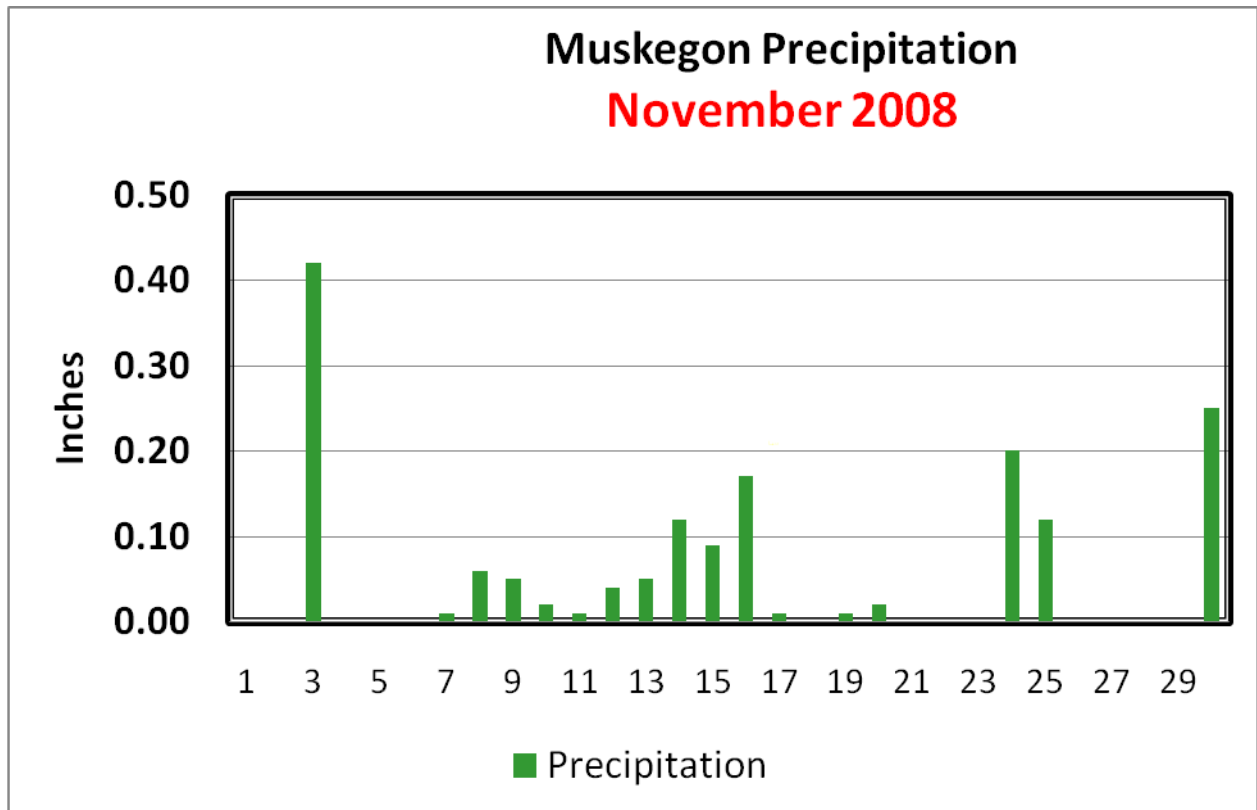


FIG. 7. As in Fig. 5 except for the Muskegon County Airport.

November 2008 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

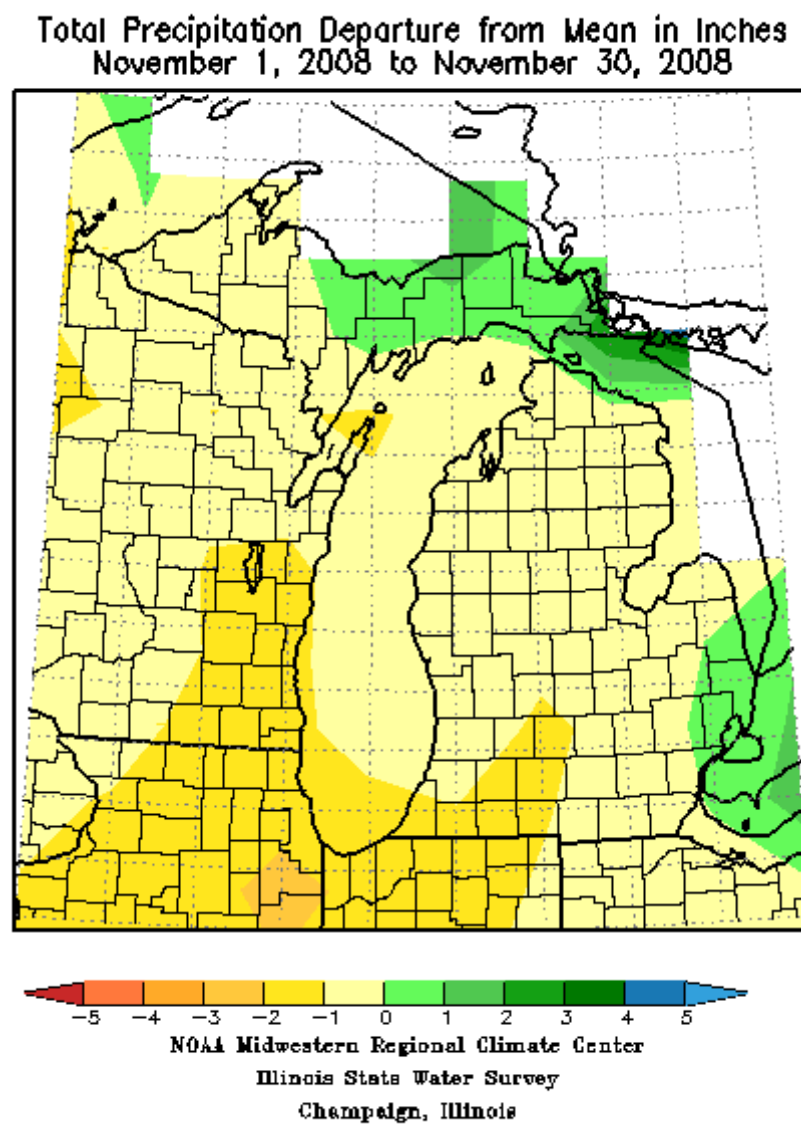


FIG. 8. Average precipitation departure (in inches) for November of 2008.

November 2008 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

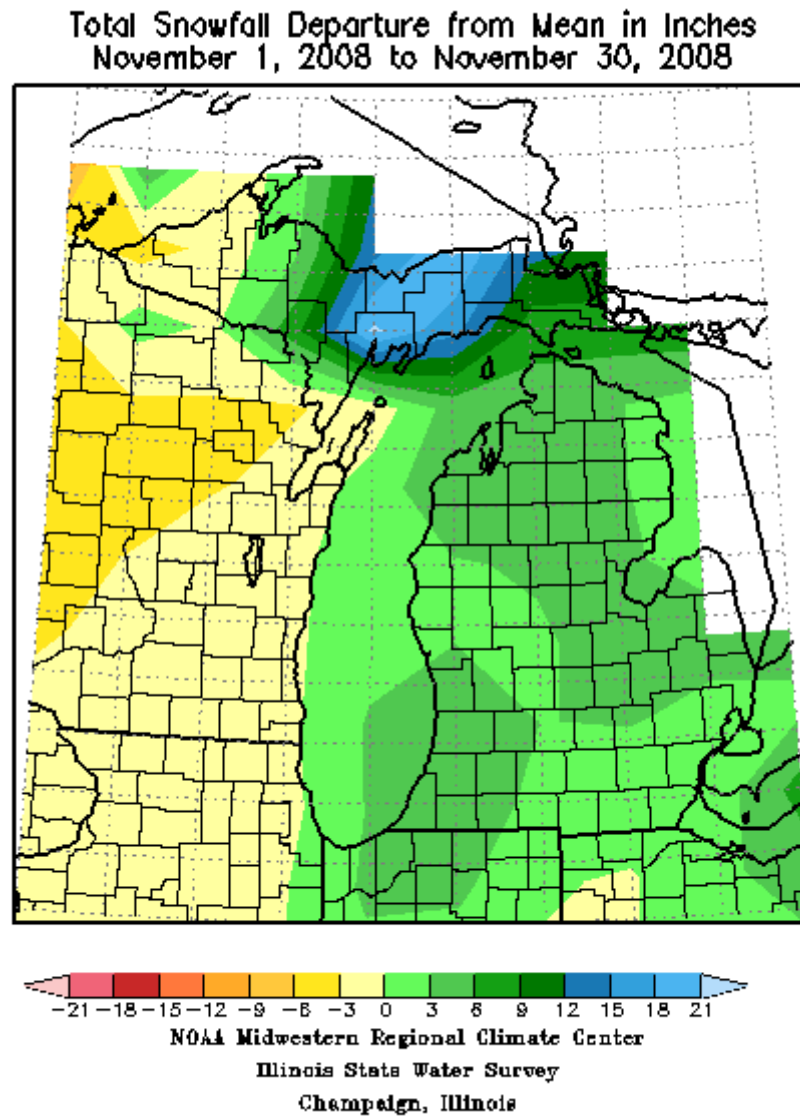


FIG. 9. Departure from normal snowfall (in inches) for November of 2008.

November 2008 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

Highlights of the month

3rd – 6th

A warm spell occurs with near record or record high temperatures in the 70s.

7th – 9th

A storm system passes through the area and brought between a quarter and one and a half inches of precipitation to areas near and west of route 131.

14th – 15th

A brief warm-up brings temperatures back into the 50s.

15th – 16th

A strong cold front passes through the area. Temperatures from the 16th to the 25th remain below 40 degrees across most of the area. The last time this happened in November was from the 12th through the 21st in 1959.

17th – 18th

Lake effect snow behind the cold front drops 6 to 10 inches of snow from Holland to South Haven (Fig 10). The highest report is 10 inches at Fennville.

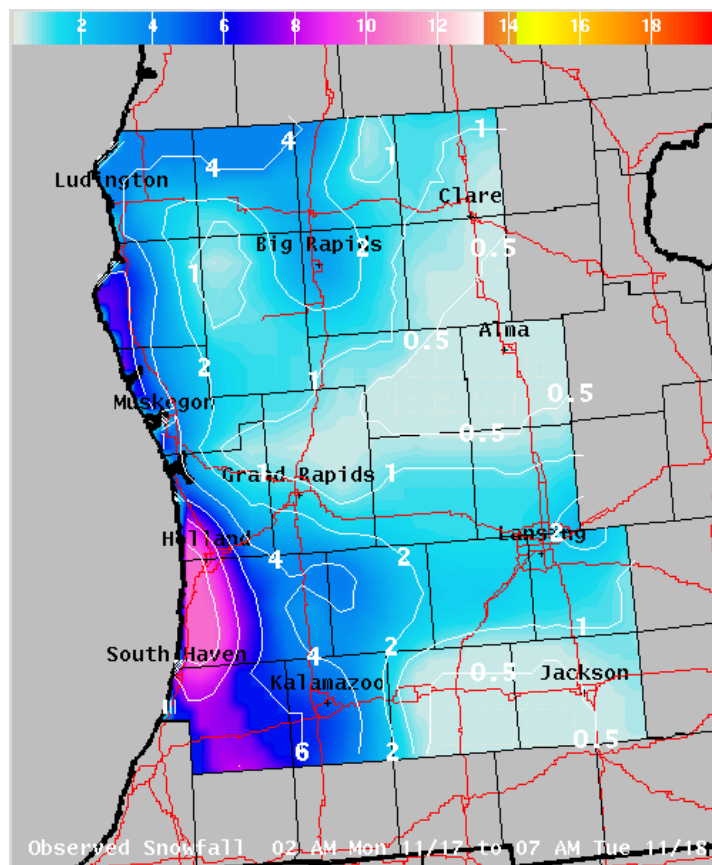


FIG. 10. Storm total snowfall from November 17th to 18th.

November 2008 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

20th – 21st

Another lake effect snow event brings another 6 to 12 inches over much of the same area (Fig. 11). This time Covert receives the greatest amount of snow.

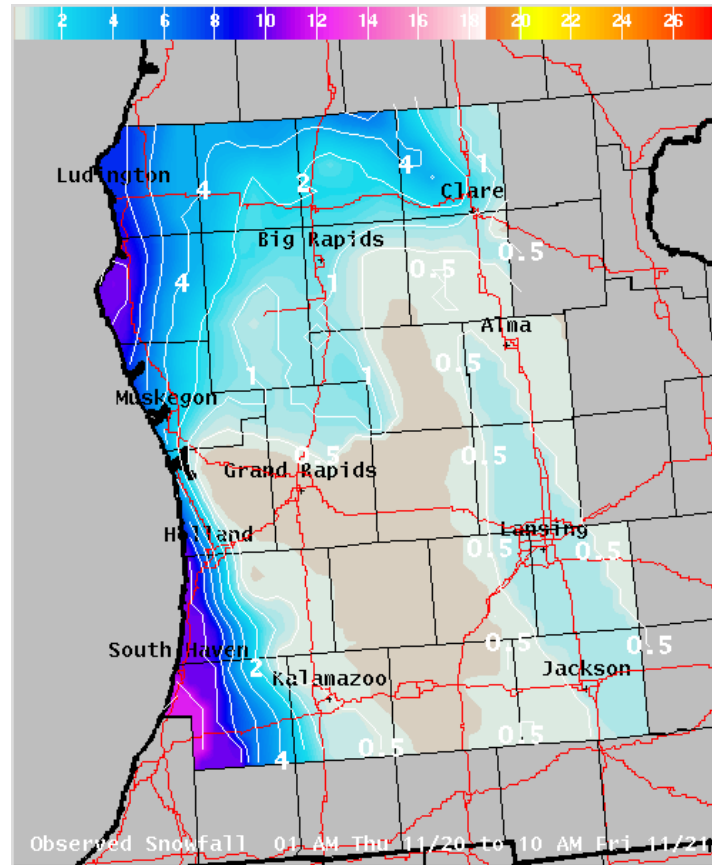


FIG. 11. Storm total snowfall from November 20th to 21st.

24th – 25th

A winter storm produces a more widespread area of snow, with greatest amounts over the northeastern part of Southwest Lower Michigan (Fig 12).

November 2008 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

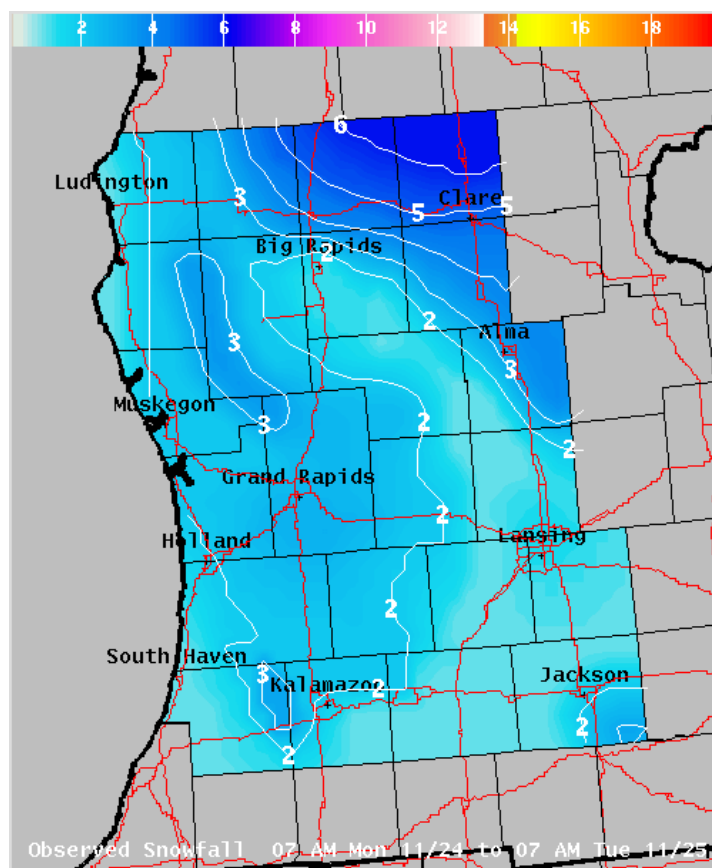


FIG. 12. Storm total snowfall from November 24th to 25th.

30th – 1st

The final winter storm system of the month approaches from the southwest and gives a significant snowfall to much of the area (Fig.13). Byron Center, Greenville, and Sparta all report totals around 7 inches.

November 2008 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

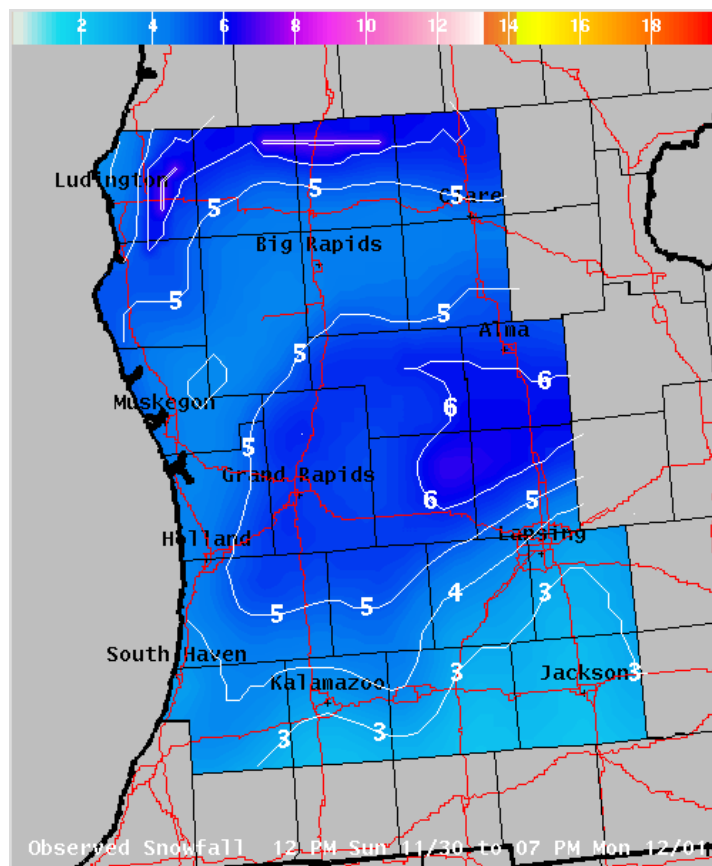


FIG. 13. Storm total snowfall from November 30th to December 1st. Note that not all of the snow fell in the month of November for this event.